

CONSTITUTION

of the

Council of the American Presbyterian Missions in India

I. The Duties of the Council.

1. *Finance* :—

- (a) To pass upon all appeals for new missionaries asked for by the different missions and to determine their relative urgency.
- (b) To do the same for all appeals for new property.
- (c) To pass upon the estimates of all the missions, which estimates shall include all special object gifts asked for by the missions.
- (d) To arrange at the time of the consideration of the estimates a schedule for the guidance of the Board in the distribution of any increase in the appropriations over those of the current year. This schedule shall contain, in the order of their relative importance all estimates for new missionaries, new property and special object gifts approved by the Council, as well as estimates for advance work in classes IV to VII and class IX. In case changes are made by the Council in column III of the estimate sheet, at least a year's notice shall be given.
- (e) Any increase in the appropriations above the estimates approved by the Council shall be distributed by special vote of the Council, each mission to have the final voice in the distribution of its own allotment.
- (f) In cases of necessity a schedule shall be arranged by the Council providing for any decrease in the total appropriations to the missions as compared with those of the preceding year.

2. *The transfer of missionaries*.—To make temporary, or recommend to the Board the permanent, transfer of missionaries (whether newly appointed or previously on the field) from one mission to another when, in the judgment of the Council, such transfers will be conducive to the best interests of the work. Before making such transfer, the Council shall give the executive

committees of the missions concerned an opportunity to be heard as to the wisdom of the contemplated transfer.

3. *Oversight of the general policy of our missions.*—To develop and have oversight of the general mission policy; to co-ordinate the work of the various departments and to approve or recommend such new work as may be necessary to meet the changing conditions and to gain increased efficiency.

4. *Conference with other missions.*—To confer with other missions regarding all matters of mutual interest and take action upon the same. Missions may arrange these matters locally, but all such action shall be reported to the Council for final ratification.

5. *Communications and appeals:*—

(a) To deal with all matters which may be referred to it by the Board, or by one or more of the missions. It shall also make definite recommendations to the Board on all matters requiring the approval of that body. But in case the India Council passes unfavourably on any action of any one of the three missions, or changes the order of preference in the matter of new missionaries, new property, or special objects, as stated in the minutes of the mission concerned, the Council shall send a copy of such unfavourable comment or change in the preferred order to the Executive Committee concerned, with reasons therefor, in order that the Executive Committee may send direct to the Board the reasons why the mission took its action.

(b) To deal with cases of appeal from the decision of a mission, in which cases the decision of the Council shall be final, subject to appeal to the Board.

NOTE:—The method of procedure in cases of appeals:—

1. Appeal to the Council may be made by any missionary if supported by one-fifth of the voting members of his mission then on the field.

2. The appellant shall give notice of the appeal to the mission from whose decision he is appealing, at least one month before forwarding his appeal, unless the parties by mutual consent waive the time limit. The mission in turn shall forward to the Council any records concerning the case, together with its own statement thereon.

3. Any mission may, by a two-thirds vote, request the reconsideration of an action of the Council.

4. Appeals shall be made in writing and forwarded to the secretary, who shall be authorized, either in person or through one or more members of the Council, acting as his deputies, to mediate between the parties in dispute. Failing successful mediation, the

secretary shall communicate the appeal at once to the members of the Council. The votes of three members shall be necessary to bring the appeal to the Council for action.

5. If in the judgment of the Council the nature or importance of the appeal requires it, the appeal may be made in person before the Council, which shall fix the time and place of the meeting.

II. The Method of Appointment of the Members of the Council.

Each of the missions of our church in India shall elect four men, two principals and two alternates, from among its own members to represent it on the Council. No one shall be eligible for a position on the Council who has not had at least five years of missionary service in India. In case of any emergency leaving the position of alternate vacant, the mission, or executive committee of the mission concerned, shall at once take steps to fill it.

III. The Term of Office of the Members of the Council.

Each member of the Council shall be elected for two years and shall be eligible for re-election, but no member shall serve more than two terms in succession. He shall take office at the first stated meeting of the Council following his election. One member of each mission shall retire each year.

IV. The Meetings of the Council.

There shall be one regular annual meeting of the Council. The secretary shall call a special meeting upon the request of three of its members. The votes of four members shall be required to take any action.

V. Reports of the Missions to the Council.

Each mission shall furnish its delegates to the Council with a report for the consideration of that body at its annual meeting. This report should show the condition of the mission and the problems confronting it.

VI. The Expenses of the Council.

The Council shall on convening appoint annually a committee of two to prepare an estimate of its expenses, regular and contingent, including those of the secretary, for the ensuing year. This estimate shall after approval by the Council be forwarded to the Board with the estimates of the missions. The appropriation for these expenses shall be made payable through the treasurer of the North India Mission, but shall not be regarded as forming a part of the appropriations of that mission.

